

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Description of Amendments

Claims 1, 4-8, 20, 24, and 25 are now pending and under examination. Applicant has cancelled claims 2-3, 9-19, 21-23, and 26-32. No new matter has been added.

Restriction/election requirement

Applicant has deleted the withdrawn claims.

Allowed and allowable claims

Applicant appreciates that the Examiner has indicated claims 5-7 would be allowable if they are rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Objection to the drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the claims invention. This objection has been overcome because the claims containing these features have been deleted.

Regarding the objection on the ground reference numeral 10 points to the plastic cover and not a hole edge, Applicant respectfully brings the Examiner's attention to the fact that the lead line for reference numeral 10 is a broken line, which means reference numeral 10 does not point to the plastic cover on the surface; instead it points to the hold edge under the plastic cover. Therefore, no change to the drawings with respect to reference numeral 10 is necessary.

Objection to the specification

The objection to the specification has been overcome because the claims containing the features objected to have been deleted.

Application No. 09/726,589
Amendment dated February 11, 2004
Response to Office Action dated February 10, 2003

Rejection under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-4, 20, 21, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Sander (US Patent 6,182,527). For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

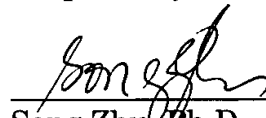
As indicated in the attached Declaration, the inventors of the present application conceived the claimed invention before July 2, 1999, which is the filing date of the Sander application. Therefore, Sander is not prior art to the present application under 35 USC §102(e). Accordingly, Sander does not anticipate the claimed invention.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (CAM #038738.49427US).

Respectfully submitted,

February 11, 2004



Song Zhu, Ph.D.
Registration No. 44,420
Donald D. Evenson
Registration No. 26,160

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
DDE:SZ:tlm (303731)